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20 OCT 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: **Brigadier General Don Flickinger, USAF (Ret.)**

SUBJECT: **Reduction of Pilot Fatigue**

REFERENCE: **Memorandum from Brigadier General Flickinger;  
Subject: Curtailment of Pre-breathing Time**

1. The referenced memorandum has been received and your opinions, conclusions, and recommendations are gratefully acknowledged. The study will be used as the basis for this Headquarters' policy regarding pre-mission denitrogenation procedures.

2. In your study it was stated that the problem of pilot fatigue could be minimized by other methods which are both feasible and practical. One example offered was the development and utilization of a crew control procedure. While there was no mention of drugs, your opinions and recommendations on the use of such stimulants are requested.

3. With the development of an inflight refueling capability fuel capacity is no longer a limiting factor in determining maximum sortie durations. Pilot fatigue and perhaps other human factors are now in actuality the principal restricting considerations. It is easy to see that operational requirements will inevitably dictate pushing the pilot to, or very nearly to, the limits of his endurance. It is anticipated that an occasional sortie of fourteen to sixteen hours would be highly desirable from strictly operational considerations.

4. I would greatly appreciate your further detailed study of the pilot fatigue problem and all feasible counter-fatigue methods which might be useful in extending a pilot's "good" time on flights of long duration. Specifically, your recommendations on use of stimulants and the employment of crew control procedures are urgently requested. FYI full pressure suits are currently being examined for adaptability to our use, the primary objective being to increase pilot comfort and reduce fatigue.

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(Signed) Starley W. Beerli

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(18 Oct 61)

**STANLEY W. BEERLI**  
Colonel USAF  
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

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DPD/SPB/ [redacted] (18 Oct 61)

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